

Frankfurter Rundschau (October 27, 1959)

Will Soviet Troops Leave Hungary?  
Departure of all Troops Expected  
Propaganda for the Disarmament Campaign

Vienna, October 26 (UPI). Western diplomats in Vienna expect a complete departure of Soviet troops from Hungary in the near future. It is rumoured that the First Secretary of the Party, Janos Kadar, will announce the removal at the seventh Party Congress starting 30 November in Budapest.

According to Western estimates, there are still 50,000 Soviet soldiers in Hungary, mostly south-west, south and north-east of the Capital. Since May 1958, when twelve to fifteen Soviet divisions were stationed in the country, considerable troop reductions have been carried out.

Hungarian army reorganized

As it has been stated, the removal of the Soviet units from Hungary would, from the viewpoint of propaganda, fit into Mr. Khrushchev's disarmament campaign and at the same time prove that the Communist regime in Hungary is not dependent on Soviet bayonets. In this connexion Western observers noted that the Hungarian army was completely reorganized. A great number of Soviet officers and specialists are now serving in the Hungarian army.

However, it is considered probable that small Soviet "emergency units" will remain in the Hungarian-Soviet border territory. It is thought in Vienna that the announcement about the removal of Soviet troops from Hungary follows a statement from Moscow that as the result of a general reduction in the Soviet forces, those Soviet soldiers serving in Hungary will be demobilized.